

Exquisitely simple, yet enormously complex, the egg is one of nature's marvels. This nutrient dense food contains every major vitamin except vitamin C and is an inexpensive source of high quality protein. On average a person consumes five eggs a week. A hen produces five eggs a week. So somewhere on one of our farms there is a hen producing the eggs you eat. In Colorado there are approximately 3,770,000 hens in egg production.

## **Economics & Rankings**

In Colorado commodities, egg production ranks 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2006, Colorado hens were very productive producing 288 eggs per hen for a total of nearly 1.8 billion eggs. Total gross income from egg production was \$47.45 million. In 2006 the farmer raising eggs received 53 cents per dozen. In terms of egg producing states, Colorado ranks as 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation.

This industry supports over 230 farm families. Egg producers purchase over 3,660,000 bushels of corn each year to feed their hens. Eggs from Colorado are distributed to Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, Nebraska, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming and Alaska. In Colorado, 95 % of the hens are housed in modern caged systems and 5% are raised in caged free barns. These numbers reflects the consumer demand for specialty eggs. One-third of the egg producers in Colorado raise some cage free and specialty egg products.

## For more information

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For information on eggs, food safety, nutrition or consumer concerns visit the American Egg Board website at <a href="https://www.uepcertified.com">www.uepcertified.com</a>.